



# National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

## *Phoenixville, PA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Borough of Phoenixville for a Brownfields Pilot. The award of the cooperative agreement for this Pilot has been on hold since the time Phoenixville was selected as a National Pilot in January 1996. The original selection of the Phoenixville Pilot was based on the Borough's expectation to own and control the use of 50 acres of the approximately 130-acre former Phoenix Iron and Steel Company property. However, the property was subsequently purchased by a private company that had its own cleanup and redevelopment plans.

### OBJECTIVES

The goal of Phoenixville's brownfields effort is to clean up abandoned industrial properties and create an urban greenway that would benefit the disadvantaged minorities living adjacent to the once thriving downtown historic district. This effort will help reduce potential health hazards, allow for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings in the area, and create new employment opportunities.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Phoenixville, Pennsylvania*

#### Date of Award:

Negotiations with Borough  
in progress

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Site Profile:** The Pilot will  
target the properties  
throughout the Borough,  
including the once thriving  
downtown historic district.

#### Contacts:

Joe Pantano  
Borough of Phoenixville  
(610) 933-8801

Tom Stolle  
U.S. EPA - Region 3  
(215) 566-3129  
stolle.tom@  
epamail.epa.gov

Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

The Pilot will:

- Conduct site assessments to determine the scope of the brownfields problem throughout the Borough;
- Conduct risk assessments and develop potential land-use options;
- Evaluate alternatives and develop a master land use plan;
- Inform citizens and build community consensus regarding reuse of brownfields sites;
- Determine the feasibility of commercial redevelopment of brownfields properties based on the site assessments; and
- Produce a video journal of the project and a handbook to assist other communities to replicate the project.

Alternate plans for this Pilot may involve either a scaled-down project, or use of the funds to assess other brownfields properties within the Borough. Negotiations are still ongoing with EPA and the Borough.